

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating at least one of preeclampsia and preterm labor in a pregnant female mammal, which comprises administering to the afflicted female (a) an amount of a progestin bioequivalent to 50-300 mg. of injected progesterone and (b) an amount of nitric oxide synthase substrate, a nitric oxide donor or both effective to raise the blood level of circulating L-arginine to at least about 1 mmole above the normally 2 to 3 mmolar circulating levels, optionally, in further combination with one or more of with one or more of a cyclooxygenase inhibitor, a PGI<sub>2</sub>-mimetic, a thromboxane (TXA<sub>2</sub>) inhibitor, a compound possessing TXA<sub>2</sub>-agonistic and TXA<sub>2</sub>-inhibiting properties, a compound possessing TXA<sub>2</sub>-antagonistic and PGI<sub>2</sub>-memetic activities, and a TXA<sub>2</sub> antagonist, which amounts being effective to ameliorate the symptoms thereof.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human suffering from preeclampsia.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human who has exhibited or is a candidate for preterm labor.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human and a nitric oxide synthase substrate is administered thereto.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the substrate is L-arginine.

*B2*  
*Sub D1*  
preeclampsia, toxemia or preterm labor in a pregnant female mammal when administered thereto in an amount effective provide an amount of the progestin bioequivalent to 50-300 mg. of injected progesterone and an amount of the nitric oxide synthase substrate, nitric oxide donor or both effective to raise the blood level of circulating L-arginine to at least about 1 mmole above the normally 2 to 3 mmolar circulating levels or raise the nitric oxide donor levels to about 1 to 1000 nmolar.

15. The composition according to claim 14, wherein (b) is a nitric oxide synthesis substrate.

16. The composition according to claim 15, wherein the nitric oxide synthesis substrate is L-arginine.

*2*  
17. The composition according to claim 14, wherein (b) is a nitric oxide donor.

*15 B3*  
18. The composition according to claim 17, wherein the nitric oxide donor is sodium nitroprusside, nitroglycerin, glyceryltrinitrie, SIN-1, isosorbidmononitrite or isosorbiddinitrite.

*4*  
19. The composition according to claim 17, which comprises a cyclooxygenase inhibitor.

20. The composition according to claim 17, which comprises a PGI<sub>2</sub>-mimetic.

21. The composition according to claim 17, which comprises a thromboxane inhibitor.

*Add B4*

*add C2*

*add D2*

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human and a nitric oxide donor is administered thereto.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the nitric oxide donor is sodium nitroprusside, nitroglycerin, glyceryltrinitrie, SIN-1, isosorbidmononitrite or isosorbiddinitrite.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the nitric oxide donor is administered orally.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human and the nitric oxide substrate or donor is administered thereto in combination with a cyclooxygenase inhibitor.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the inhibitor is aspirin.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human and the nitric oxide substrate or donor is administered thereto in combination with a PGI<sub>2</sub>-mimetic.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the PGI<sub>2</sub>-mimetic is iloprost or cicaprost.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human and the progestin administered thereto is progesterone.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an admixture of (a) a progestin and (b) a nitric oxide synthesis substrate, a nitric oxide donor or both, and optionally, also at least one of a cyclooxygenase inhibitor, a PGI<sub>2</sub>-mimetic, a thromboxane (TXA<sub>2</sub>) inhibitor, a PGI<sub>2</sub>-mimetic, a thromboxane (TXA<sub>2</sub>) inhibitor, a compound possessing TXA<sub>2</sub>-agonistic and TXA<sub>2</sub>-inhibiting properties, a compound possessing TXA<sub>2</sub>-antagonistic and PGI<sub>2</sub>-memetic activities, and a TXA<sub>2</sub> antagonist, in amounts effective to ameliorate the symptoms of

002120-042260

1/15  
Sub. E